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Jacksonville, Florida 32202-3139

June 15, 2017



Attention WC Docket No. 17-84
U.S. Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Submitted Electronically via ECFS

Dear Sir or Madame:

JEA takes this method and opportunity to submit the following comments in reference to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Actions Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, published May 16, 2017 in the *Federal Register*.

COMMENTS OF JEA

ON FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S ACTIONS ACCELERATING WIRELINE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT BY REMOVING BARRIERS TO INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

WC Docket No. 17-84

BACKGROUND

JEA is a municipally owned electric, water and wastewater utility serving over 1,000,000 people in Northeast Florida. JEA owns, maintains and operates all the aerial and underground facilities necessary to provide services to its customers in an area of approximately 900 square miles. The aerial facilities include approximately 150,000 electricity distribution poles. JEA also owns, maintains and operates the most extensive and robust fiber optic network within the area. JEA currently provides leased fiber services (dark fiber) to broadband service providers and other entities. JEA has and always will allow for pole attachments in a neutral and nondiscriminatory manner. JEA has pole leasing agreements with all ten of the entities that currently provide broadband services within its service area. JEA normally processes pole attachment applications within 30 days. Disputes with pole "attachers" are rare. JEA would like to continue to enjoy a collegial and non-hostile relationship with area attachers.

GENERAL COMMENTS

JEA believes that significant benefits will accrue to communities that move towards ubiquitous broadband deployment. The benefits will be improved economic development (jobs and income)

and enhancements in the quality of life for the respective members of the community. JEA, itself, has undertaken and is currently engaged in several initiatives that have supported and accelerated broadband deployment in the greater Jacksonville area. For these reasons, JEA is generally supportive of policies that facilitate orderly broadband deployment that do not compromise safety or the ability for JEA to provide reliable and reasonably priced services to its customers.

JEA would like FCC to understand that are physical and practical limitations to the amount of communications equipment that can be accommodated safely on a pole. It will be difficult to construct a standardized policy prescription that delineates such limitations. JEA believes the "capacity for attachments" should be determined on a case specific basis (type/size/existing utilization) and that such determination remain at the sole determination of JEA, especially when it affects safety or the ability to provide service in a reliable manner. Exhibit "A" (attached hereto) is provided to illustrate how it may sometimes be difficult to fully accommodate an attachment request. A typical small cell wireless installation is depicted on the left, contrasted to a typical JEA concrete electricity distribution pole. Accommodating all of that small cell equipment with the existing traditional communications' attachments will be problematic as will be accommodating the small cell antennae at the top of the JEA pole, within and above the electricity "hot zone".

JEA is a member of the American Public Power Association (APPA) and the Utilities Technology Council (UTC). JEA fully supports the comments of those groups in this rule making. JEA's specific comments should be considered as supplemental and re-enforcing to comments provided by those groups.

Specific Comments:

The FCC does not need any additional regulatory authority over municipal utilities.

Municipal-owned utilities like JEA are governed by locally controlled agencies that promulgate policy in open and stakeholder-involved processes. Forums like these allow for adequate and unbiased consideration of cost/benefit impact on respective parties as well the impact upon the general welfare of the community as a whole. Accordingly, municipal utilities are subject currently to limited FCC jurisdiction. Pole attachers in the area are constituents of local policy makers and have local policy makers as point of redress for disputes, wherein they can expect unbiased resolution of conflicts. JEA believes that any additional oversight that the FCC would exert in the area of rates and terms or conditions for providing access to its infrastructure would be redundant and insufficiently considerate of local community concerns. For these reasons, JEA does not believe the FCC should be given any additional regulatory authority over municipally owned utilities or municipal utility infrastructure. JEA is subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North America Energy Reliability Council (NERC) whose foremost regulatory responsibility is maintain reliable electric service.

JEA believes that it should not have to incur any new or additional costs to administer its policy or provide access to its infrastructure. JEA provides all its services on an average cost basis. To the extent reasonable, no customer group is compelled to subsidize any other customer group or class of service. If the FCC infrastructure access regulation causes new costs to JEA,

without allowing those costs to be passed through to the cost causer, the impact of those costs will be on the JEA service ratepayer. JEA believes this would be an unnecessary and unfair subsidy. An example of how regulation could cause subsidization would be if the FCC required attachment applications to be processed within 15 days (as opposed to the current requirement of 45 days) and precluded the assessment of an expedition fee. JEA would have to double the amount of resources (double the costs) to process attachment applications in half the amount of time as it does currently. If those additional costs are not picked up by the applicant (cost causer), those cost would be borne by the other JEA service ratepayers. Hence, an unfair subsidy. Consistent with JEA's policy to provide service to all at fair and reasonable rates, JEA believes that it should be allowed to impose fair and justifiable fees for expediting pole attachment application requests. JEA also believes that fair and justifiable fees should be assessable to "make ready" work and that JEA continue to be allowed to determine the fair and justifiable rates for pole attachments.

CONCLUSION

JEA appreciates the opportunity to comment on to the FCC's Actions Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment. Appropriately considering and addressing the issues raised above will help assure that JEA can continue to plan and maintain a robust, safe, reliable and economically viable electric energy supply system for the communities that we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

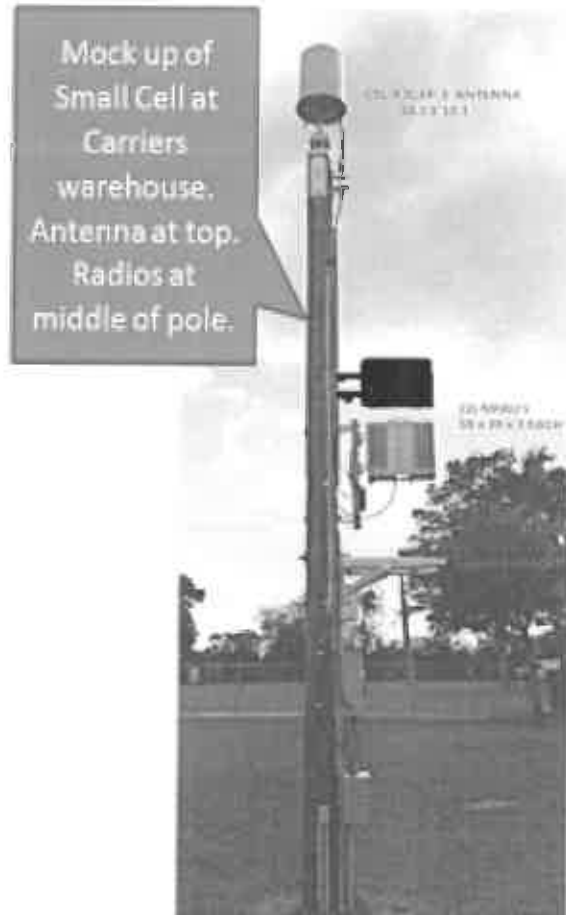


Berdell Knowles,

Government Relations Specialist, JEA

Exhibit A

Small Cell Wireless Installation



Pole Attachment

